

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 IO-10

/089 W

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R 101522Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3284

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3101

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PLO IS SY

SUBJECT: PLO SUSTAINS ATTACK ON SECRETARY'S SETTLEMENT EFFORTS  
WHILE PONDERING SYRIAN OFFER OF JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN  
COMMAND

REFS: A. BEIRUT 2985 (NOTAL); B. DAMASCUS 884 (NOTAL)

1. MAR 8 EDITORIAL IN PLO WEEKLY, FILASTIN AL THAWRA, MAIN-  
TAINED AND ELABORATED EXPLANATION FOR MAR 5 TERRORIST OPERATION  
IN TEL AVIV FIRST PROVIDED BY FATAH LEADER SALAH KHALAF (ABU  
IYAD) MAR 6 (REFTEL A). LINKING TEL AVIV RAID DIRECTLY  
WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT, FILASTIN AL THAWRA CHARGED THAT SETTLEMENT  
SOUGHT BY USG IS DIRECTED AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND SEEKS ISOLATE  
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PALESTINIAN CAUSE FROM REMAINDER OF ARAB WORLD.

TEL AVIV ATTACK, WEEKLY CONCLUDED, DEMONSTRATED CONCLUSIVELY THAT  
"IT HAS BECOME TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN  
PEOPLE IN ORDER TO PLEASE THE ENEMY (ISRAEL)."

2. 'ARAFAT, IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, HAS "WARMLY WELCOMED"  
OFFER OF SYRIAN PRES ASSAD (REFTEL B) TO CREATE JOINT SYRIAN-  
PALESTINIAN POLITICAL/MILITARY COMMAND. 'ARAFAT'S STATEMENT,  
RELEASED LATE MAR 8 BY PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, CONTAINED  
NO FURTHER COMMENT ON SYRIAN PROPOSAL.

3. COMMENT: WE DEFER TO EMBASSY DAMASCUS IN ASSESSING MOTIVATIONS  
BEHIND SYRIAN PROPOSAL, BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AT PRESENT THAT  
PRES ASSAD'S OFFER WAS WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE WITH PLO LEADERSHIP.  
WHILE 'ARAFAT & CO., TO EXTENT THEY CONTINUE SEEK ARAB REASSURANCE  
AND ROLE IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS, MAY FIND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF  
JOINT COMMAND IDEA ATTRACTIVE, THEY HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED COMMITTING  
THEMSELVES TO IT. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY SEE PIT-FALLS AND DIS-  
ADVANTAGES IN IT AS WELL, IN VIEW OF PAST SARG EFFORTS TO DOMINATE  
PLO AND PLO LEADERSHIP'S LINGERING SUSPICIONS OF SYRIAN MOTIVES  
VIS-A-VIS ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS. WE THINK THAT 'ARAFAT'S INITIAL  
PUBLIC REACTION IS THEREFORE PROBABLY MERE POLITESSE, AND THAT PLO  
LEADERSHIP--DESPITE ITS NERVOUSNESS OVER AND OPPOSITION TO EGYPT'S  
DEALINGS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ISRAELIS-- WILL THINK TWICE  
BEFORE LEAPING INTO BED WITH SARG IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEW RELATION-  
SHIP PROPOSED BY ASSAD.

GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT03101  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750083-0841  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 2985, 75 (NOTA DAMASCUS 884  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PLO SUSTAINS ATTACK ON SECRETARY'S SETTLEMENT EFFORTS WHILE PONDERING SYRIAN OFFER OF JOINT SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN  
**TAGS:** PINS, IS, SY, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006